

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A mask assembly for a patient comprising:
a frame;
a cushion provided to the frame; and
a vent assembly including a first vent, a second vent, and a selector to switch the flow of exhaled gas from the patient between the first and second vents.
2. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 1, wherein the first and second vents include at least one characteristic relating to noise and/or flow which are different from one another.
3. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the frame comprises a shell and the vent assembly is provided on the shell.
4. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the cushion includes nozzle elements and the selector includes a clip that is slidable with respect to the frame to select between the first and second vents.
5. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the selector is rotatable.

6. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the selector is pivotable.

7. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the selector is slidable.

8. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the frame includes an elbow and the selector is provided on the elbow.

9. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 8, wherein the selector is provided on a depending arm of the elbow.

10. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein one of the first and second vents is provided with a material configured to reduce at least one of noise level and risk of cross-infection.

11. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly of claim 10, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of foam, ~~GORE-TEX™~~ porous polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and ceramic.

12. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the selector is adjustable between first and second positions corresponding to the first and second

vents, respectively, and the selector includes positioning structure to define the first and second positions.

13. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 12, wherein the positioning structure comprises detents.

14. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 12, wherein the vent assembly is configured to vent exhaled gas even if the vent assembly is not in the first or second positions.

15. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 12, wherein an alarm is sounded if the vent assembly is not in the first or second positions.

16. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 15, wherein the alarm is defined by a higher noise level produced by the vent assembly.

17. (Original) A vent assembly including a first vent, a second vent, and a selector to switch the flow of exhaled gas from a patient between the first and second vents.

18. (Original) The vent assembly of claim 17, wherein the first and second vents include at least one characteristic relating to noise and/or flow which are different from one another.

19. (Previously Presented) The vent assembly according to claim 1, wherein the selector is rotatable, pivotable and/or slidable.

20 (Previously Presented) The vent assembly according to claim 17, wherein one of the first and second vents is provided with a material configured to reduce at least one of noise level and risk of cross-infection.

21. (Currently Amended) The vent assembly of claim 20, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of foam, ~~GORE-TEX™~~ porous polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and ceramic.

22. (Previously Presented) The vent assembly according to claim 17, wherein the selector is adjustable between first and second positions corresponding to the first and second vents, respectively, and the selector includes positioning structure to define the first and second positions.

23. (Original) The vent assembly of claim 22, wherein the positioning structure comprises detents.

24. (Previously Presented) The vent assembly according to claim 22, wherein the vent assembly is configured to vent exhaled gas even if the vent assembly is not in the first or second positions.

25. (Previously Presented) The vent assembly according to claim 22, wherein an alarm is sounded if the vent assembly is not in the first or second positions.

26. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 25, wherein the alarm is defined by a higher noise level produced by the vent assembly.

27. (New) A mask assembly for a patient comprising:
a frame;
a cushion provided to the frame; and
a vent assembly including a cylinder at least partially rotably connected to a sleeve,
wherein the cylinder includes at least a first aperture and the sleeve includes at least a second aperture, wherein a vent is formed by the convergence of the first and second apertures.

28. (New) A vent assembly including a cylinder at least partially rotably connected to a sleeve, wherein the cylinder includes at least a first aperture and the sleeve includes at least a second aperture, wherein a vent is formed by the convergence of the first and second apertures.

29. (New) A mask assembly for a patient comprising:
a frame;
a cushion provided to the frame;
a vent assembly provided to the frame having a first vent portion with a first flow capacity and a second vent portion with a second flow capacity, and
a slidable selector to switch between the first and second vent portions.

30. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein each of the first and second vents includes a plurality of vent holes.

31. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the first and second vents extend from an inner surface of the frame to an outer surface of the frame.